

Entire team pulls together

Fuel cell tiger team hangs STS-83 plaque

Lead Flight Director Rob Kelso congratulated everyone involved with the STS-83 mission and praised their commitment to flight safety during the traditional plaque hanging in Mission Control.

“What we recognize through this plaque hanging is the remarkable process within manned spaceflight of managing risk,” Kelso said. “Everyone within the program... from the flight crew, to flight controllers, to system engineers, to factory suppliers are risk managers. STS-83 demonstrated the ability of this team to effectively manage risk toward ensuring the safety of the crew and *Columbia* when faced with a fuel cell problem that was not well understood.”

After a successful landing of *Columbia* at the Kennedy Space Center, the STS-83 Fuel Cell Anomaly Tiger Team was selected to hang the plaque. While the mission team was headed by Howard Wagner, NASA Fuel cell subsystem manager, and Doug White, USA engineering, both were out of town investigating the fuel cell during the ceremony and Ray Miessler, lead for the STS-83 Electrical Generation and Illumination team, and Ray Gonzales of the Engineering Directorate were chosen to represent the team.

The STS-83 mission made it's mark as the heaviest landing to date. The mission is scheduled to be reflown in July as STS-94.



JSC Photo s90-05600 by Steve Candler

STS-83 Commander Jim Halsell, right, congratulates Ray Miessler, lead for the STS-83 Electrical Generation and Illumination team that hung the STS-83 plaque in Mission Control.

Manager's Message

By John Casper
Director, Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance

It happens—a near disaster. And, it wasn't your fault, but it leaves you with a moist brow and clammy hands just thinking of the “what ifs?” This was the experience of an on-site driver on the clear Tuesday morning of April 29.

Stopped at a red light at the corner of 2nd Street and Avenue C, the driver waited until the light turned green. Then, moving forward with the signal, he looked in stunned disbelief as a bicycle rider whizzed up from the right side and turned left, directly across the car's path. Adrenaline took over. The brakes were slammed, missing the rider by a heart-stopping six inches, and a near tragedy was averted. Serious injury? Probably. Death? Very possibly. You see, in addition to riding carelessly, the cyclist was not wearing a helmet.



Casper

The bicycle rider kept going. A close call? Yes. Was anything learned from this? Will the rider be more cautious in the future? Does the rider even observe JSC regulations?

If you ride a private or government bicycle or a motorcycle, you must follow these requirements in addition to JSC traffic rules:

- Wear a helmet;
- Wear appropriate clothes. Avoid anything that could catch on the chain or on any road obstacles. Flat-soled shoes are recommended;
- Avoid riding on sidewalks if possible;
- Limit your speed; and
- Yield to pedestrians at all times. Warn pedestrians before you pass them.

The JSC Vehicle Code imposes bicycle and motor-assisted bicycle rules.

We would like to think the incident described is a rarity—that it won't happen again. But it can. Next time, carelessness may not get a second chance.

People on the Move

Human Resources reports the following personnel changes as of March 30:

New Hires

Karla Washington was hired as a program analyst in the Business Management Directorate.

Loretta McDonald was hired as an aerospace technician in Mission Operations.

Raul Blanco was hired as an aerospace technician in Engineering.

Temporaries

Beverly Calvert joins the International Space Station Program Office.

Promotions

Carol Hill was recently promoted to secretary in the Business Management Directorate.

Gregory Oliver and Debbie Pawkett were promoted to supervisory aerospace technicians in Mission Operations.

Susan Anderson was promoted to administrative assistant in Engineering.

John Bacon, Susan Burns, David Petri and Ted Tsai were promoted to aerospace technicians in Engineering.

Steve Poulos was promoted to supervisory aerospace technician in Engineering.

Estrella Jones and Maria Perez were promoted to accounting technicians in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

Kevin Window was promoted to aerospace technician in the International Space Station Program Office.

Retirement

Cassandra Williams retired from the Business Management Directorate.

Resignations

Susan Taylor resigned from Engineering.

Reassignments

Deborah Neubek moves from the International Space Station Program to Engineering.

Apt retires from astronaut corps

Astronaut Jay Apt will leave NASA this month, and Steve Hawley will resume his position as Flight Crew Operations deputy director.

Four-time shuttle veteran Apt will leave NASA in late May to become director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh.

“The astronaut office will miss Jay's dedication and spirit,” said Dave Leestma, director of Flight Crew Operations. “I am sure he will use this new position to continue his efforts to educate and inspire young people to excel.”

Apt first flew on STS-37 aboard *Atlantis* in 1991, conducting two space walks, including one unscheduled extravehicular activity to manually deploy the antenna on the Gamma Ray Observatory spacecraft.



Apt

He flew twice on *Endeavour*, during STS-47 in 1992 for the Spacelab-J mission, and again for STS-59, the first flight of the Space Radar Laboratory in 1994. Most recently, Apt flew aboard *Atlantis* on STS-79, the fourth shuttle-Mir docking mission, in 1996.

“Every minute that I've been a part of the space exploration program has been fascinating,” Apt said. “I am thrilled by the chance to return to Pittsburgh and lead one of the best museums in America into the next century.”

Steve Hawley has resumed his position as deputy director of Flight Crew Operations after he and his STS-82 crew mates successfully serviced the Hubble Space Telescope earlier this year.

Linda Godwin, who has been acting deputy director in Hawley's absence, will return to her previous position as deputy chief of the Astronaut Office.

Dates & Data

May 9

Space society meets: The Clear Lake Chapter of the National Space Society will meet at 6:30 p.m. May 9 at the Holiday Inn at Hobby Airport. Virgil Sharpton will discuss “The Chicxulub Crater: Site of the Cosmic Collision that Ended the Dinosaurs' Reign.” For information call Murray Clark at 367-2227.

Astronomers meet: The JSC Astronomical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. May 9 at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, 3600 Bay Area Blvd. For more information call Chuck Shaw at x35416.

Web training: The Safety Reliability and Quality Assurance Directorate will provide hands-on demonstrations of its Internet-distributed training and on-the-job information resource from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. May 9 in Bldg. 12 Rm. 276. For details call Jeff Evans at x39295.

May 10

Sailboat rides: The Clear lake Sailing Club will offer free sailboat rides May 10 at Clear Lake Park. For reservations call Richard Hoover at 996-7716.

May 13

NPMA meets: The National Property Management Association will meet at 5 p.m. May 13 at Robinette and Doyle Caterers, 216

Kirby in Seabrook. Social and dinner cost \$14. For more information call Sina Hawsey at x36582.

Aero club meets: The Bay Area Aero Club will meet at 7 p.m. May 13 at the Houston Gulf Airport clubhouse at 2750 FM 1266 in League City. For more information call Larry Hendrickson at x32050.

May 14

Spaceland Toastmasters meet: The Spaceland Toastmasters will meet at 7 a.m. May 14 at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church. For details call Jeannette Kirinich at x45752.

Spaceteam Toastmasters meet: The Spaceteam Toastmasters will meet at 11:30 a.m. May 14 at United Space Alliance, 600 Gemini. For details call Pat Blackwell at 282-4302 or Ben Black at 282-4166.

MAES meets: The Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists will meet at 11:30 a.m. May 14 in the Bldg. 3 cafeteria. For additional information call G.D. Valle at x38835.

Astronomy seminar: The JSC Astronomy Seminar will be held at noon May 14 in Bldg. 31 Rm. 129. Mark Matney will discuss “Weathering Meteor Storms—Predicting the Leonids.” For more information call Al Jackson at x35037.

PSI meets: The Clear Lake/ NASA Chapter of Professional Secretaries International will meet at 5:30 p.m. May 14 at the Holiday Inn, NASA Road 1. Dinner costs \$15. For more information call Elaine Kemp at x30556.

May 19

NBL dedication: The dedication of the Sonny Carter Training Facility Neutral Boyancy Lab will be held from 10-11 a.m. May 19. For more information call Pam Adams at x35599.

May 17

NTA meets: The National Technical Association will meet at 10 a.m. May 17 at Texas Southern University School of Technology, Rm. 316. For more information call Pam Denkins at x35272.

May 21

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Scuba club meets: The Lunar-fins will meet at 7:30 p.m. May 21 at the Redfish Restaurant under the Kemah/Seabrook bridge, Seabrook side. For more information call Fred Toole at x33201.

May 22

Directors meet: The Space Family Education board of directors will meet at 11:30 a.m. May 22 in Bldg. 45 Rm. 712D. For more information on this open meeting call Gretchen Thomas at x37664.

May 23

Electrical fair: JSC will host an electrical safety fair from 10a.m.-2 p.m. May 23 at Bldg. 30. For more information call Rindy Carmichael at x45078.

May 24

Exhibit opens: Space Center Houston will premiere “Robot Zoo” May 24. For more information call SCH at 244-2105.

May 29

Radio club meets: The JSC Amateur Radio Club will meet at 7

p.m. May 29 at Piccadilly Cafeteria, 2465 Bay Area Blvd. For details call Larry Dietrich at 39198.

June 5

Warning system test: The site-wide Employee Warning System will undergo its monthly audio test at noon June 5. For more information call Bob Gaffney at x34249.

June 8

Space symposium: NASA and the International Academy of Astronautics will host the 12th Man in Space Symposium June 8-13 in Washington D.C. Topics include countermeasures, biology, environmental and human factors, life support and space walking and physiology. For details, check out the symposium's web site at: <http://cass.jsc.nasa.gov/12misf.html>

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